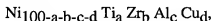


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

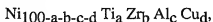
In one exemplary embodiment of the invention the Ni-based alloys have the following general formula



where $8 < a < 22$, $13 < b < 37$, $5 < c < 17$, and $0 < d < 17$.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

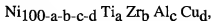
In one preferred embodiment of the invention the Ni- based alloys have the following general formula



where $13 < a < 20$, $25 < b < 32$, $8 < c < 12$, and $2 < d < 8$.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The most preferred embodiment of the pentiary Ni- base alloys have the following general formula



where $15 < a < 18$, $27 < b < 30$, $9 < c < 11$, and $3 < d < 7$.